

REMARKS

Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for the informal discussion relating to the present application. The Applicants and the Examiner discussed the above amendments to the claims and Applicants' belief that the amendments distinguish Applicants' invention from U.S. Patent No. 7,031,527 ("Ishikawa") and from U.S. Patent No. 4,575,628 ("Bankart") which were cited against Applicants.

Claims 1-74 were previously pending in the above-referenced application. Applicants have amended claims 1-3, 57-59, 62-64, 67-69 and 72-74 and added new claims 75-101. With the amendments herein, claims 1-101 are currently pending, with claims 4-56 having been withdrawn as being drawn to a nonelected group two. Each of the amendments is supported by the specification at paragraphs 343-355.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103:

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-3 and 57-74 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ishikawa et al. (U.S. Patent No. 7,031,527) in view of Bankart et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,575,628).

Ishikawa does not teach or disclose "identifying at least one notch of the at least one outline wherein said notch is identified by determining a plurality of curvatures, wherein each of the plurality of curvatures is in a neighborhood of a point on the at least one outline," as recited in claims 1 and 72, to "identify at least one notch of the at least one outline wherein said notch is identified by determining a plurality of curvatures, wherein each of the plurality of curvatures is in a neighborhood of a point on the at least one outline," as recited in claims 2 and 73, or "a fourth module which, when executed, identifies at least one notch of the at least one outline wherein said notch is identified by determining a plurality of curvatures, wherein each of the plurality of curvatures is in a neighborhood of a point on the at least one outline," as recited in claims 3 and 74 of the present application.

While Ishikawa describes that "internal curves" appear in a raster image as curves (col. 2, lines 65-66) and that "holes" on the pattern can be found by finding a black object inside a non-black object (col. 9, lines 63-64), this is very different than identifies, identify or identifying "at

least one notch of the at least one outline wherein said notch is identified by determining a plurality of curvatures, wherein each of the plurality of curvatures is in a neighborhood of a point on the at least one outline,” as recited in claims 1-3 and 72-74 of the present application.

Bankart does not teach or disclose “identifying at least one notch of the at least one outline wherein said notch is identified by determining a plurality of curvatures, wherein each of the plurality of curvatures is in a neighborhood of a point on the at least one outline,” as recited in claims 1 and 72, to “identify at least one notch of the at least one outline wherein said notch is identified by determining a plurality of curvatures, wherein each of the plurality of curvatures is in a neighborhood of a point on the at least one outline,” as recited in claims 2 and 73, or “a fourth module which, when executed, identifies at least one notch of the at least one outline wherein said notch is identified by determining a plurality of curvatures, wherein each of the plurality of curvatures is in a neighborhood of a point on the at least one outline,” as recited in claims 3 and 74 of the present application. Therefore, Ishikawa and Bankart either alone or in any known combination do not make obvious the claims according to the present application.

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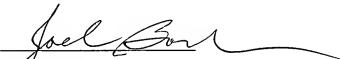
Because independent claims 1-3 and 72-74 are not obvious over Ishikawa and Bankart, either alone or in any known combination, therefore, dependent claims 57-59, 62-64 and 67-69 cannot be obvious.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, each of claims 1-3 and 57-59, 62-64 and 67-69 of the above referenced application is believed to be in condition for allowance. Additionally, new claims 75-101 are also in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner at the earliest convenience issue a notice of allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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Joel N. Bock
Reg. No. 36,456
Attorney for Applicants
SONNENSCHN NATH & ROSENTHAL LLP
P.O. Box 061080
Wacker Drive Station, Sears Tower
Chicago, Illinois 60606-1080
Phone: (973)912-7174